

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Dana C. Bookbinder, et al.

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Title: METHODS FOR PROTECTING SILICA-  
CONTAINING ARTICLE AND  
INHIBITING BREAKS DURING  
DRAWING OF OPTICAL FIBER, AND  
SILICA-CONTAINING ARTICLE  
PROTECTED AGAINST BREAK-  
INDUCING PARTICULATES

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
ACCOMPANYING  
CONTINUATION APPLICATION**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING  
CONTINUATION APPLICATION**

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment accompanying a **Continuation** of U.S. Application No. 09/447,077 filed November 22, 1999. Applicant requests that prior to the calculation of any fees the following amendments be entered, without prejudice, in the case.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.